

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Response includes sixteen new claims and twenty-three canceled claims. The applicants hereby seasonably challenge the factual assertions of inherency and teachings of the cited references made by the Examiner in the claims rejected under section 102 and 103. However, these claims have been cancelled rendering the seasonable challenge, as moot. In addition, two of the pending claims have been amended. As a result, the application will have twenty-seven total claims (five of which are independent) after entry of the above amendments. Since fees for thirty-four total claims and eight independent claims have been previously paid in this application, it is believed that no additional claim fees are due.

Further, it is believed that this Response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for response. Consequently, it is believed that no extension of time fees have been generated by this filing. If it is determined, however, that any fees are due in this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-1722 in the amount of such fees.

The final Office action indicates allowable subject matter and states that several claims would be allowable if combined with their parent independent claims. The amendments and new independent claims presented above combine objected claims with the claim upon which they are dependent.

In summary, objected claim 17 has been combined with independent claim 13 and is presented above as amended claim 13. Objected claim 18 has been combined with claim 13 and is presented above as new claim 40. Objected claim 19 has been combined with claim 13 and is presented above as new claim 46. Objected claim 21 has been combined with independent claim 20 and is presented above as amended claim 20. Finally, objected claim 23 has been combined with claim 20 and is presented above as new claim 35. The new dependent claims are each related to previously presented (and currently objected) dependent claims 17 through 19 and 21 through 24. On this basis, for example, it is believed that the pending claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the above remarks fully address the issues presented in the Office Action and establish that the pending claims are allowable. The amendments presented above are intended merely to place the application in condition for allowance. It is anticipated that the amended and new claims will not require any additional searching by the Office. It is believed that only a cursory review will be necessary to verify that the application has indeed been placed in condition for allowance. Upon such review, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If, however, the examiner believes that an unanticipated consequence has been generated by the amendments presented herein, the undersigned will be available for consultation regarding the necessity of a formal amendment or an examiner's amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this application and the offered amendments.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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